

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2973

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, PK, IN BG

SUBJ: SHAH'S COMMENT ON RELATIONS WITH SUBCONTINENT

REF: NEW DELHI 5031

1. ESSENTIAL POINTS IN REFTEL CONFIRMED BY SHAH DURING AUDIENCE
APRIL 16.

2. IN COMMENTING ON IMPORVED IRANIAN-INDIAN RELATIONS, SHAH STATED
THAT HIS EFFORTS WITH INDIA HAVE NOT ONLY BORNE FRUIT, AS WITNESS
MRS GANDHI'S VISIT, BUT HAVE HAD THE ADDITIONAL BENEFIT OF MUTING
INDIAN CRITICISM OF IRANIAN ARMS PURCHASES. HE ADDED, "I AM GIVEN
CREDIT FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS, BUT IT IS ONLY FAIR AND
JUST THAT I POINT OUT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S CONSIDERABLE CONT-
RIBUTION TO THIS PROCESS. AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE LAHORE CON-
FERENCE HE CLEVERLY STAGE MANAGED THE RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH,
THEN HE WAS ABLE TO HAVE HIS PEOPLE GO TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE
AND WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS ABOUT THE 195 POW'S. AFTER ALL, IT IS HE
WHO TOOK THE CHANCES, AND IT IS HE WHO HAS TO FACE HIS OWN PEOPLE."
HELMS

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